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BC Stats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca *Issue: 09-31* *August 7th, 2009*

- **Jobless rate inches down to 7.8% as labour force declines more than employment**
- **Goods sector sheds 2.9% of workforce; service sector jobs inch up 0.3%**
- **Room revenues increase for first time since November 2008**

Labour Force Survey

- **British Columbia's unemployment rate inched down to 7.8% (*seasonally adjusted*) in July, as a 0.3% drop in employment was outweighed by an even larger decline (-0.7%) in the number of people who were either working or looking for work.**

  The Canadian unemployment rate was unchanged at 8.6% in July. Nationally, employment and the labour force shrank in tandem, leaving the jobless rate at the same level as in June. BC, Ontario and Nova Scotia were the only provinces where the unemployment rate declined.

  Labour market conditions in BC, and other parts of Canada, have deteriorated significantly during the last year and a half. BC's unemployment rate has nearly doubled during the last nineteen months, rising from 4.1% in January 2008 to 7.8% last month. The increase was more rapid than in any other province except Alberta, where the rate climbed from 3.3% to 7.2% over the same period. By comparison, Ontario's unemployment rate (9.3%) in July was three percentage points higher than in January 2008. The Canadian rate increased from 5.8% to 8.6% over the same period. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The number of jobs in goods-producing industries shrank 2.9% (*seasonally adjusted*) between June and July, with most industries showing substantial declines.** Forestry, fishing & mining (+3.2%) was the lone exception. Construction, the biggest employer, shed 2.1% of its workers, while the number of jobs in manufacturing fell (-3.6%) for a third straight month.

  In the service sector, employment was down in accommodation & food services (-3.9%), education (-3.2%), management & administrative services (-1.6%), public administration (-0.9%) and "other" services (-6.7%). However, there were more people working in finance, insurance & real estate (+7.8%), transportation & warehousing (+3.1%) and retail & wholesale trade (+1.4%), which is the largest employer in the sector. Other key industries, including health care & social assistance (+1.6%) also took on more workers, and overall, employment in the service sector rose 0.3%.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The number of people employed full-time was down 0.7% (*seasonally adjusted*) in July but there were 0.8% more part-time workers.** The youth (15-24) unemployment rate continued to climb, rising to 13.6%. Among workers aged 25 and over, the jobless rate was 6.7%. Men (8.4%) were more likely to be unemployed than women (7.0%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Employment fell (relative to July 2008) in all regions of the province, but Cariboo (-9.4%, *3-month moving average, unadjusted*), North Coast/Nechako (-8.5%) and Thompson-Okanagan (-7.7%) were hardest hit by job losses.** Mainland/Southwest (-1.0%) and Kootenay (-1.8%) saw relatively modest job losses in July.

  In Cariboo (14.2%) and North Coast/Nechako (10.5%), jobless rates remained in the double-digits for a fifth straight month. Rates in the rest of the province ranged from 6.4% in Vancouver Island/Coast to 9.5% in Thompson/Okanagan. The low unemployment rate

Report Regional Migration

Did you know...

Over half (56%) of Canadian Internet-users have a profile on at least one online social network site. *Source: Ipsos Canada*

in Vancouver Island/Coast is largely due to labour market conditions in Victoria, where the (*unadjusted 3-month-moving average*) unemployment rate was just 6.1% in July. Nanaimo's unemployment rate (7.7%) was much higher.

The jobless rate in Mainland/Southwest (7.4%) was virtually the same as in the Vancouver CMA (7.3%). Northeast (7.9%) was the only other region where the unemployment rate was below eight percent in July.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

The Economy

- **The value of building permits issued in British Columbia surged 30.3% (*seasonally adjusted*) in June, the highest increase in the country.** Planned spending on both residential (+13.7%) and non-residential (+49.7%) projects was notably higher than in May.

  In Kelowna, permits more than quadrupled (+326.5%) and recorded one of the most significant increases among Canadian cities. Abbotsford-Mission also saw a substantial jump (+98.1%), but intentions were down in Vancouver (-1.1%) and Victoria (-9.9%).

  Nationally, permits climbed 1.0% with increases in other provinces ranging from 3.1% in Nova Scotia to 26.6% in New Brunswick. Three provinces posted declines in June, the most notable of which was in Saskatchewan (-29.3%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Year-to-date, building permits were 48.8% lower than in the first six months of 2008, with decreases in every region.** Mainland/Southwest (-56.8%), saw the most notable drop, reflecting substantially lower spending on residential, industrial, commercial and institutional projects. The decline in Vancouver Island/Coast (-21.2%) was concentrated in the industrial and residential sectors. Permits were also off in other parts of the province, with declines ranging from 34.8% in Nechako to 55.4% in North Coast.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

Tourism

- **Room revenues in the province rose 1.2% (*seasonally adjusted*) in April, ending a four-month-long downturn.** The increase was largely due to a recovery in Mainland/Southwest (+2.1%), where revenues rose for the first time since October. Thompson/Okanagan (+1.1%) made a comeback after a weak performance in March, and Kootenay (+2.7%), Nechako (+3.7%) and Northeast (+8.1%) also posted gains. However, revenues fell in North Coast (-4.7%), Vancouver Island/Coast (-2.1%), and Cariboo (-1.8%) where they were down for a sixth consecutive month. *Data Source: BC Stats*

- **Canadian hotel operators surveyed in July are less optimistic about their prospects than they were earlier in the year.** A mere five percent expect occupancy rates to rise during the peak summer months, while more than three-quarters (76%) are anticipating declines. Sixty-two percent of hoteliers expect to see a decrease in room rates between July and September, nearly nine times the 7% who think they will rise. Opinions are equally divided between those expecting an increase (3%) and those anticipating a decline (74%) in corporate and commercial travel. However, nearly a quarter (24%) of hoteliers foresee no change.
  While some (8%) did not expect any difficulties in the second quarter, the obstacles most frequently cited by those who had concerns were regional economic conditions (66%), excess room supply (37%) and exchange rate fluctuations (34%). Twenty-one percent said a lack of attractions or complementary facilities in the vicinity was a problem and some continued to report a shortage of skilled (13%) and unskilled labour (11%). A similar percentage felt that Canada's reputation as a desired tourist destination (13%) was a likely business impediment, while others (10%) were expecting to experience abnormal weather or natural disasters. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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originally published in
Migration Highlights Issue 09-1

Regional Migration

Unlike international migration, which is largely concentrated in the lower mainland, interprovincial migration (between other provinces) and intraprovincial migration (between regions within BC) have a more widespread impact on population change. Estimates of migration at the regional district[1] (RD) level are now available for July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008.

Interprovincial Migration

During this period, B.C. experienced positive net interprovincial migration, gaining 11,458 people from other parts of Canada. This resulted from an inflow of 67,394 and an outflow of 55,936 interprovincial migrants. Among RDs, 20 of 28 experienced positive net interprovincial migration. Table 1 lists interprovincial migration flows for a selection of age groups.

	18 to 24		25 to 44		45 to 64		65+		All Ages		Net Migration
Regional District	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	
Central Okanagan	790	492	1,809	990	1,143	535	368	355	5,133	2,893	**2,240**
Greater Vancouver	4,289	3,016	11,743	10,815	3,655	3,498	1,296	1,121	24,998	22,821	**2,177**
Capital	1,228	858	2,843	2,348	1,500	804	528	405	7,222	5,318	**1,904**
Nanaimo	325	341	848	590	1,007	357	309	176	2,991	1,808	**1,183**
Columbia-Shuswap	154	216	586	319	413	181	94	79	1,559	976	**583**
Central Kootenay	196	278	568	323	477	234	120	116	1,704	1,160	**544**
Squamish-Lillooet	345	109	466	284	102	60	24	12	1,094	567	**527**
Okanagan-Similkameen	190	246	536	321	488	281	177	196	1,738	1,238	**500**
East Kootenay	330	341	831	567	392	304	109	112	2,112	1,651	**461**
North Okanagan	259	238	599	434	470	263	159	182	1,850	1,404	**446**
Comox-Strathcona	314	375	824	769	600	318	151	100	2,381	2,067	**314**
Thompson-Nicola	358	410	881	725	407	346	96	111	2,323	2,023	**300**
Cowichan Valley	125	199	341	318	367	209	135	90	1,194	1,008	**186**
Kootenay Boundary	74	139	262	128	131	87	40	46	691	511	**180**
Sunshine Coast	65	49	114	64	92	43	35	17	385	214	**171**
Powell River	31	20	77	42	71	28	6	9	241	143	**98**
Alberni-Clayoquot	53	80	113	92	88	61	22	15	353	291	**62**
Mount Waddington	34	34	70	44	56	39	1	1	192	141	**51**
Fraser Valley	428	507	1,110	1,125	606	495	255	200	3,172	3,147	**25**
Central Coast	5	0	19	14	0	0	0	0	24	19	**5**
Bulkley-Nechako	81	127	215	170	88	114	37	1	557	562	**-5**
Stikine (region)	8	12	7	18	9	7	0	0	38	50	**-12**
Skeena-Queen Charlotte	32	55	100	94	41	42	1	7	237	252	**-15**
Kitimat-Stikine	93	128	204	211	86	106	20	22	559	592	**-33**
Peace River	396	393	783	775	310	333	37	75	2,037	2,092	**-55**
Cariboo	112	164	297	317	145	157	31	55	854	939	**-85**
Fraser-Fort George	246	423	597	594	216	272	47	37	1,477	1,620	**-143**
Northern Rockies	50	53	119	183	38	63	0	0	278	429	**-151**
BC	**10,611**	**9,303**	**26,962**	**22,674**	**12,998**	**9,237**	**4,098**	**3,540**	**67,394**	**55,936**	**11,458**

1 The Comox Valley and Strathcona Regional Districts are combined here into "Comox-Strathcona".

The region with the highest net interprovincial migration was Central Okanagan RD, which includes the city of Kelowna, with a net inflow of 2,240 individuals. The Greater Vancouver RD had by far the largest flow of interprovincial movers, with 24,998 interprovincial in-movers and 22,821 out-movers.

Of the eight regions experiencing a net interprovincial outflow, all have a heavy dependence on the resource sector, which did not fare well during the year. The Northern Rockies RD had the largest population loss, with a 151 net leavers. The Fraser-Fort George RD suffered a loss of similar magnitude, but given that since 1996 this region has lost an average of about 600 individuals per year through interprovincial migration, an outflow of 143 is modest.

Intraprovincial Migration

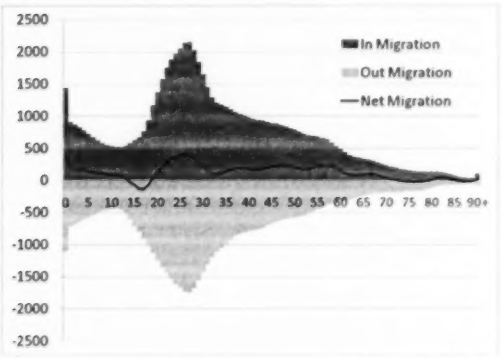
A total of 92,802 British Columbians moved to a different RD during 2007-2008. Of the RDs, 11 were net sources of intraprovincial migrants, and 17 were net destinations. The top net gainer of intraprovincial migrants was the Fraser Valley RD, which includes the municipalities of Abbotsford and Hope. As with interprovincial migration, Central Okanagan was among the top destinations

	18 to 24		25 to 44		45 to 64		65+		All Ages		Net Migration
Regional District	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	
Fraser Valley	1,141	1,216	3,685	3,152	2,149	1,700	947	662	10,372	8,806	1,566
Thompson-Nicola	772	640	1,708	1,427	1,332	832	421	277	5,402	3,983	1,419
Central Okanagan	1,018	721	2,019	1,606	1,247	1,005	527	460	5,929	4,740	1,189
Nanaimo	748	745	1,808	1,571	1,470	951	567	570	5,603	4,667	936
Capital	1,536	1,165	3,123	3,221	1,638	1,560	665	613	8,297	7,737	560
Comox-Strathcona	493	623	1,256	1,203	951	678	362	162	3,832	3,416	416
Sunshine Coast	153	134	425	314	447	292	129	136	1,374	1,101	273
Cowichan Valley	364	489	1,104	1,086	875	600	320	306	3,330	3,101	229
Columbia-Shuswap	280	407	724	667	584	420	196	186	2,247	2,023	224
Okanagan-Similkameen	325	479	871	864	911	625	396	415	3,043	2,865	178
Peace River	435	303	906	732	254	336	1	56	2,119	1,942	177
North Okanagan	405	577	1,116	1,026	805	687	357	320	3,369	3,237	132
Powell River	123	154	283	191	263	142	44	69	844	725	119
Kootenay Boundary	146	248	407	364	392	248	98	99	1,300	1,212	88
Cariboo	321	598	979	893	820	626	170	159	3,029	2,944	85
Fraser-Fort George	612	613	1,349	1,269	513	734	93	93	3,518	3,484	34
Stikine (region)	14	0	25	15	10	14	0	2	58	40	18
Central Coast	18	19	91	79	15	20	3	0	164	179	-15
East Kootenay	182	246	521	482	231	241	38	49	1,282	1,315	-33
Mount Waddington	109	120	220	229	160	127	8	22	644	691	-47
Central Kootenay	250	400	720	646	371	357	106	125	1,809	1,871	-62
Squamish-Lillooet	287	248	868	870	203	332	53	57	1,689	1,840	-151
Alberni-Clayoquot	146	321	397	421	260	257	60	69	1,136	1,336	-200
Northern Rockies	61	76	127	201	6	44	4	2	253	467	-214
Skeena-Queen Charlotte	102	189	271	342	126	150	7	27	701	922	-221
Kitimat-Stikine	201	289	491	513	181	277	11	47	1,308	1,602	-294
Bulkley-Nechako	191	319	533	579	227	314	23	44	1,326	1,784	-458
Greater Vancouver	3,495	2,589	7,180	9,244	3,218	6,090	1,587	2,166	18,824	24,772	-5,948
BC	**13,928**	**13,928**	**33,207**	**33,207**	**19,659**	**19,659**	**7,193**	**7,193**	**92,802**	**92,802**	**0**

for intraprovincial migrants. On the negative side, the Greater Vancouver RD was by far the largest source of intraprovincial migrants, with a net outflow of nearly 6,000 people. Such an outflow is not exceptional for the Greater Vancouver RD. High inflows of international migrants and gains from interprovincial migration are usually more than enough to offset any intraprovincial losses for this region.

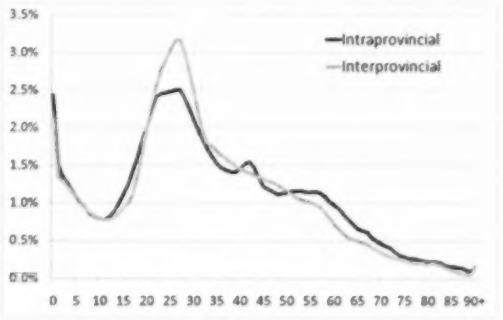
Age of Migrants

Migrants are most often people in their late teens to mid-twenties, usually moving away from their childhood home, seeking education or employment. Thereafter, those between 25 and 44 often move again to start families of their own, in search of work, or to improve their housing. Between 45 and 64, people tend to move as children leave the home and in some cases, as work is no longer required. After 65, people may move due to retirement, sometimes moving away from high density areas to places outside of high commuter flows, or they may move to be closer to amenities.



Interprovincial migration during the 2007-2008 period was positive for all age groups, except some modest losses among youths in their late teens and some elderly over 75. The peak of net migration coincides with the peak of in and out flows among 20-30 year olds.

Standing out from the other RDs, Squamish-Lillooet had a very young distribution of interprovincial in migrants; 18 to 24 year olds made up 32 percent of inflows to the region, while this age group comprised only 16 percent of inflows provincially. A likely explanation for this pattern is the popularity of the area, which includes Squamish and Whistler, as an outdoor recreation destination, as well as significant construction and development in preparation for the 2010 Olympic Games.



The age distribution of intraprovincial migrants exhibits a similar pattern to that of interprovincial migrants, but with less weight given to young adults. Individuals over 45 make up a larger proportion of intraprovincial migrants than interprovincial migrants. Moves within the province may be less costly, both financially and socially, and therefore more desirable with older people who tend to be more established in an area.

While the Greater Vancouver RD had the largest net outflow of intraprovincial migrants, among 18 to 24 year olds there was a net inflow. It appears the most urban area in the province, with concentrated education and career opportunities, appeals to these younger individuals. The highest net gain of individuals over the age of 65 was in the Fraser Valley RD, where inflows of 947 resulted in a net increase of 285 persons in this age group.

Infoline

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also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca or choose RSS

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Apr 1/2009	% change on one year ago
BC	4,435.3	1.7
Canada	33,592.7	1.2
GDP and INCOME (Revised Apr 27)		
(BC - at market prices)	2008	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	199,214	3.5
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	164,161	-0.3
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)*	37,466	-1.9
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	26,110	3.3
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - May	2,602	-3.8
Merchandise Exports - May	1,968	-5.7
Retail Sales - May	4,399	0.8
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Jun 2009)	one year ago	% change
BC	-0.7	1.6
Vancouver	-0.5	1.8
Victoria	-0.4	1.6
Canada	-0.3	1.7
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Jul '09	prev. month
Labour Force - BC	2,436	-0.7
Employed - BC	2,247	-0.3
Unemployed - BC	189	-5.0
		Jun '09
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	7.8	8.1
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	8.6	8.6
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Aug 5/2009	Aug 6/2008
Prime Business Rate	2.25	4.75
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.75	6.95
- 5 year	5.85	7.15
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Aug 5/2009	Aug 6/2008
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0720	1.0470
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9345	0.9545
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Jul '09	one year ago
BC	789.41	0.2
Canada	801.51	2.6

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Population & Household Projections

The latest British Columbia population projections (PEOPLE 34) are now available. BC Stats produces population and household projections for British Columbia and for a number of sub-provincial geographies in the province, including: Development Regions, Regional Districts, Health Authorities, Health Service Delivery Areas, Local Health Areas, College Regions, School Districts, and six Special Regions.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/pop/popproj.asp

British Columbia Wellness Atlas 2008

The dynamic and highly configurable atlas allows users greater flexibility to explore the regional variations and correlations of the wellness data. In total, 40 indicators are drawn from the CCHS (Canadian Community Health Survey) and 27 indicators are from the 2006 Census of Canada and 2008 Socio-Demographic variables from BC Stats. The Wellness Atlas presents information in a geographical context (Health Service Delivery Areas), revealing spatial variations and patterns across British Columbia. To display your own unique dataset, contact Pat Bluemel to discuss.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/georef/geopage.asp

Regional Employment Projections

British Columbia's economy depends upon a skilled workforce for economic growth and well-being. Recent demographic forecasts have emphasized the need to increase the workforce in a variety of occupations. In response, BC Stats has developed a projection of the possible demand for labour by region, industry and occupation for 2008 to 2013.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/lss/repm.asp

Released this week by BC Stats

- Business Indicators, July 2009
- Tourism Sector Monitor, July 2009
- Labour Force Statistics, July 2009
- Earnings & Employment Trends, July 2009

Next week

- Exports, June 2009

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